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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,949	07/15/2003	Alex A. Kouznetsov	BRI/019	7830

7590 08/11/2005

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EXAMINER

SUKMAN, GABRIEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3641

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,949

Applicant(s)

KOUZNETSOV, ALEX A.

Examiner

Gabriel S. Sukman

Art Unit

3641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-20, 23 and 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 11, 13 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/12/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 14-20, 23, and 24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 14 January 2005.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "a plurality of slave device to the system" should be corrected. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 11, 13, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent Document ZA 9401443 to Ellis et al. (hereinafter Ellis).

The abstract of the Ellis patent clearly teaches all of the limitations of claim 1. Step a) is inherently carried out in view of the reference to "the detonators to which addresses have already been assigned" (lines 5-6 of abstract). Step b) is inherent in the statement, "the method involves monitoring the system in order to detect a

connection of a fresh detonator to the system" (lines 1-2). Step c) is taught in: "the system is monitored by repeatedly transmitting a test signal to all detonators in the system from a control location" (lines 3-5). And step d) is taught by Ellis in the teachings that "the detonators to which addresses have already been assigned are configured such that they don't respond to the test signal" while "a fresh detonator transmits a second signal to the control location in response to the test signal" (lines 5-9).

Claim 2 is anticipated by Ellis as well since the response from the fresh detonators includes other information, i.e., its status.

Claim 3 is inherently taught by the system of Ellis.

Claim 4 is anticipated by Ellis since it is disclosed that the control location repeatedly transmits a test signal.

Claim 5 is anticipated by Ellis as well since Ellis refers to a plurality of fresh detonators and it would defeat the purpose if the slave devices were to respond simultaneously.

Claim 6 is anticipated by Ellis since it is disclosed that the control location assigns unique addresses of the slave detonators and necessarily their identifications.

Claim 11 is anticipated by the electronic blasting system of Ellis since the master device is a blasting machine and the slave devices are electronic detonators (see title).

Claim 13 is inherently taught by the system of Ellis.

Claim 22 is anticipated by Ellis as well as per the discussion above regarding claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 21 is allowed.

Claims 7-10, and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel S. Sukman whose telephone number is (703) 308-8508. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Carone can be reached on (703) 306-4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gss



MICHAEL J. CASOLE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER